

Serial Number 10/774,248 - Bader et al.

Claim Listing

Claim 1. (presently amended): An attenuated strain of *Flavobacterium columnare* resistant to ampicillin, characterized by smooth-edged colonies, significantly less ability to adhere to skin tissue than the parent, non-attenuated strain of *Flavobacterium columnare*, and effective for eliciting an immune response in fish which is protective against infection by virulent strains of *Flavobacterium columnare*, wherein said strain of *Flavobacterium columnare* is NRRL B-30687.

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (original): A vaccine comprising: (1) in an effective immunization dosage the attenuated strain of *Flavobacterium columnare* of claim 1 and a carrier.

Claim 4. (canceled).

Claim 5. (original): The vaccine as described in claim 3 wherein said carrier is water.

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Claim 6. (original): A method of providing protection for fish against infection by virulent strains of *Flavobacterium columnare* comprising administering the vaccine of claim 5 to said fish.

Claim 7. (presently amended): A The method of claim 6 wherein said fish is catfish.

Claim 8. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said administering is by means of immersion of said fish in an aqueous medium containing said vaccine.

Claim 9. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein said attenuated strain of *Flavobacterium columnare* is present in the immersion medium at a concentration greater than or equal to about 1×10^5 CFU/mL.